

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium having a base generator class stored thereon for use by developers to create generators to perform specific tasks, the base generator class comprising:

a base generator class constructor for initializing a generator;

a generator properties class that provides incrementation capability, which allows the value of a generator property to vary during consecutive executions of a generator, the value of a generator property comprising a stream portion and a numerical portion, the numerical portion being incremented;

a status indicator including a status user interface (UI) for displaying the execution status of generators, the execution status of each generator including a description of the generator and the value of each property associated with the generator;

a schedule class; and

a logging class for recording an object generated by each generator, a time of the object generation, and generator properties used to generate the object; the logging class providing a user a capability to turn the logging class off; [[and]]

wherein the logging class is used to verify the tasks performed by the generators.

2. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the generator properties class that provides incrementation capability includes a plurality of generator properties.

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3. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 2, wherein said plurality of generator properties includes:

- a value of a generator property;
- a plurality of incrementation settings;
- a default incrementor that changes the value of the generator property; and
- a default validator that validates the value of the generator property.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the schedule class comprises:

- a start condition under which the execution of a generator may be started;
- a recurrence condition under which the execution of a generator may recur;
- an end condition under which the execution of a generator stops; and
- a dialog box that can be used to accept user input.

6. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the logging class enables the recording of the execution process of a generator.

7. (Currently amended) A method of creating a generator, wherein the generator performs a specific task including at least creating a file, comprising:

creating a new generator class that inherits a base generator class that contains incrementation capability;

creating a public default constructor for the new generator class that overrides the base generator class constructor by accepting user-defined properties for the generator, the user-defined properties for the generator including incrementation settings for a property;

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implementing a function in the new generator class to perform the specific task; and verifying the task based on properties of the generator.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 7, wherein creating a public default constructor comprises:

initializing the base generator class constructor with the name and the description of the generator; and

defining the properties of the generator.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 8, wherein defining properties for the generator comprises:

- (a) defining the name of a property;
- (b) setting a default value for the property;
- (c) providing a description for the property;
- (d) specifying incrementation settings for the property;
- (e) creating a custom property incrementor, if applicable;
- (f) creating a custom property validator, if applicable; and
- (g) repeating (a)-(f) for all properties of the generator.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 7, further comprising implementing a function to be executed before each execution of a generator.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 7, further comprising implementing a function to be executed after each execution of a generator.

12. (Currently amended) A method of using a generator that performs a specific task including at least creating a file, comprising:

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customizing settings of the generator, the settings including incrementation settings that specify how the value of a generator property may vary between generated objects, the generated object including a file, the incrementation settings including at least one of an "offset" setting and a "step" setting, the "offset" setting specifying a value by which the value of a generator property is incremented, the "step" setting specifying a number of generated objects containing the value of a generator property with the same "offset" setting;

executing the generator with the customized settings; and

verifying the task based on the settings of the generator.

13. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 12, customizing the settings of the generator, is accomplished through a user interface.

14. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 13, further comprising:

starting an object generator user interface;

selecting the generator; and

customizing properties of the generator.

15. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 14, selecting a generator further comprising adding the generator from files containing one or more generators.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 14, further comprising loading the settings of a generator from a file.

17. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 14, wherein customizing the properties of the generator comprises:

- (a) selecting one property;
- (b) specifying a value of the one property;

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- (c) specifying incrementation settings of the one property; and
  - (d) repeating (a)-(c) until there are no more properties to be customized.
18. (Original) The method of Claim 14, further comprising setting a schedule for executing the generator.
19. (Original) The method of Claim 14, further comprising setting logging options for executing the generator.
20. (Original) The method of Claim 14, further comprising saving the settings of the generator.
21. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 12, customizing the settings of a generator is accomplished programmatically.
22. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 21, further comprising:  
creating a new instance of the generator;  
setting a number of objects to be generated by the generator; and  
customizing properties of the generator.
23. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 22, wherein customizing properties of the generator comprises:
  - (a) setting values of the properties; and
  - (b) specifying incrementation settings of the properties.
24. (Original) The method of Claim 21, further comprising:  
creating a new instance of the generator; and  
loading saved settings of the generator from a file.

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25. (Original) The method of Claim 21, further comprising:  
creating a new instance of the generator;  
loading saved settings of the generator from a file; and  
implementing a function to execute the generator asynchronously.
26. (Original) The method of Claim 21, further comprising:  
creating a new instance of the generator;  
loading saved settings of the generator from a file;  
displaying an object generation status UI; and  
adding the generator to the object generation status UI.
27. (Original) The method of Claim 21, further comprising:  
creating a new instance of the generator;  
loading saved settings of the generator from a file;  
displaying a schedule dialog box that allows a user to specify a schedule for executing the generator; and  
displaying a logging dialog box that allows a user to specify logging options for executing the generator.
28. (Original) The method of Claim 12, further comprising executing the generator through a user interface.
29. (Original) The method of Claim 12, further comprising executing the generator programmatically.

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30. (Currently amended) A method for object generation using a base generator class, comprising:

creating a generator that performs a specific task;

customizing settings of the generator, the settings including incrementation settings that specify how the value of a generator property may vary between generated objects, the incrementation settings including at least one of an "offset" setting and a "step" setting, the "offset" setting specifying a value by which the value of a generator property is incremented, the "step" setting specifying a number of generated objects containing the value of a generator property with the same "offset" setting;

executing the generator with the customized settings; and

verifying the task based on the settings of the generator.

31. (Original) The method of Claim 30, wherein creating a generator that performs a specific task comprises:

creating a new generator class that inherits the base generator class;

creating a public default constructor for the new generator class that overrides the base generator class constructor; and

implementing a function in the new generator class to perform a specific task.

32. (Original) The method of Claim 31, creating a public default constructor further comprising:

initializing the base generator class constructor with the name and the description of the generator; and

defining the properties of the generator.

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33. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein defining the properties for the generator includes:

- (a) defining names of the properties;
- (b) setting default values for the properties;
- (c) providing descriptions for the properties;
- (d) specifying incrementation settings for the properties;
- (e) creating a custom property incrementor, if applicable; and
- (f) creating a custom property validator, if applicable.

34. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 31, further comprising implementing a function to be executed before each execution of the generator.

35. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 31, further comprising implementing a function to be executed after each execution of the generator.

36. (Original) The method of Claim 30, customizing the settings of a generator is accomplished through a user interface.

37. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 36, further comprising:  
starting an object generator user interface;  
selecting the generator; and  
customizing properties of the generator.

38. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 37, wherein selecting the generator comprises adding the generator from files containing one or more generators.

39. (Original) The method of Claim 37, further comprising loading generator settings from a file.

40. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 37, wherein customizing the properties of the generator comprises:

- (a) selecting one property;
- (b) specifying the value of the one property;
- (c) specifying incrementation settings of the one property; and
- (d) repeating (a)-(c) until there are no more properties to be customized.

41. (Original) The method of Claim 37, further comprising setting a schedule for executing the generator.

42. (Original) The method of Claim 37, further comprising setting logging options for executing the generator.

43. (Original) The method of Claim 37, further comprising saving the settings of the generator.

44. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 30, customizing the settings of a generator is accomplished programmatically.

45. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 44, further comprising:  
creating a new instance of the generator;  
setting a number of objects to be generated by the generator; and  
customizing the properties of the generator.

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46. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 45, wherein customizing the properties of the generator comprises:

- (a) setting a value of one property;
- (b) specifying incrementation settings of the one property; and
- (c) repeating (a)-(b) until there are no more properties to be customized.

47. (Original) The method of Claim 44, further comprising:

creating a new instance of the generator; and

loading saved settings of the generator from a file.

48. (Original) The method of Claim 44, further comprising:

creating a new instance of the generator;

loading saved settings of the generator from a file; and

implementing a method to execute the generator asynchronously.

49. (Original) The method of Claim 44, further comprising:

creating a new instance of the generator;

loading saved settings of the generator from a file;

displaying an object generation status UI; and

adding the current generator to the object generation status UI.

50. (Original) The method of Claim 44, further comprising:

creating a new instance of the generator;

loading saved settings of the generator from a file;

displaying a schedule dialog box that allows a user to specify a schedule for executing the generator; and

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displaying a logging dialog box that allows a user to specify logging options for executing the generator.

51. (Original) The method of Claim 30, further comprising executing the generator through a user interface.

52. (Original) The method of Claim 30, further comprising executing the generator programmatically.

53. (Currently amended) A method of varying a value of a property associated with a task, during consecutive executions of the task performed by a generator created to perform the task, comprising:

allowing the value of the property to vary during consecutive executions of the task;

creating settings associated with the property that control how the value may vary during consecutive executions of the task, the settings including at least one of an "offset" setting and a "step" setting, the "offset" setting specifying a value by which the value of a generator property is incremented, the "step" setting specifying a number of generated objects containing the value of a generator property with the same "offset" setting;

allowing a user executing the task to customize the settings according to user preference; and

verifying the task based on the settings.

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54. (Original) The method of Claim 53, wherein the step of allowing the value of the property to vary during consecutive executions of the task further comprises:

implementing a function that increments a property value according to the settings associated with the property that control how the value may vary during consecutive executions of the task.

55. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium containing computer-executable instructions for a method of varying a value of a property associated with a task, during consecutive executions of the task performed by a generator created to perform the task, the method comprising:

allowing the value of the property to vary during consecutive executions of the task;

creating settings associated with the property that control how the value may vary during consecutive executions of the task, the settings including at least one of an "offset" setting and a "step" setting, the "offset" setting specifying a value by which the value of a generator property is incremented, the "step" setting specifying a number of generated objects containing the value of a generator property with the same "offset" setting;

allowing a user executing the task to customize the settings according to user preference; and

verifying the task based on the settings.

56. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 55, wherein the step of allowing the value of the property to vary during consecutive executions of the task further comprises:

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implementing a function that increments a property value according to the settings associated with the property that control how the value may vary during consecutive executions of the task.

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